

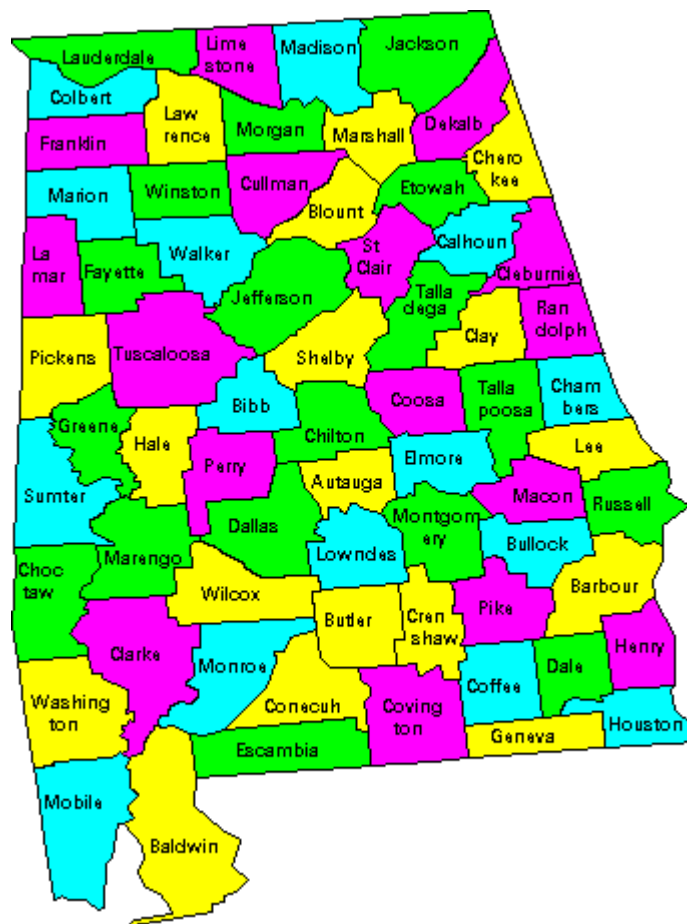
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Alabama

Profile of Drug Indicators

November 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Alabama

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 4,464,356 (2001 estimate) 4,447,100 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 70.3% white; 25.9% African American; 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.7% Asian; 0.1% some other race; 0.9% two or more races; 1.7% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

Politics

- Governor: Don Siegelman²
- Lt. Governor: Steve Windom³
- Attorney General: Bill Pryor⁴
- Secretary of State: Jim Bennett⁵
- U.S. Senate: Jeff Sessions (R); Richard Shelby (R)⁶
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): Sonny Callahan; Terry Everett; Bob Riley; Robert Aderholt; Robert Cramer; Spencer Bachus; Earl F. Hilliard⁷
- Capital: Montgomery⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
The Gulf Coast HIDTA was designated in 1996 and is responsible for Baldwin, Jefferson, Mobile, and Montgomery Counties in Alabama. In addition to Alabama, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is also responsible for counties in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Community Substance Abuse Partnership (CSAP)- Montgomery AIDS Outreach Inc. Children's Aids Society¹⁰
This project, which builds upon current Montgomery AIDS Outreach (MAO) programs, incorporates strategies and activities to provide at-risk youth with information and opportunities for pre- and post-test counseling and HIV testing.

Federal Funding:

- Drug-Free Communities grantees awarded funding by ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:¹¹
 - FY 2002:
 - \$100,000 to the Hoover City Schools, Hoover
 - FY 2001:
 - \$99,932 to The Council on Substance Abuse-NCADD, Montgomery
 - \$100,000 to Partnership for a Drug-Free DeKalb County, Inc, Fort Payne
 - \$97,197 to Selma Substance Abuse Coalition, Selma
 - FY 2000:
 - \$99,932 to Morgan County Substance Abuse Network of Decatur, Decatur
 - \$87,172 to Dothan-Houston County Substance Abuse Partnership, Dothan
 - \$48,343 to Shelby County Coalition for Drug-Free Communities, Saginaw
 - FY 1999:

- \$97,238 to Community Service Programs of West Alabama, Tuscaloosa
- \$99,933 to Partnership For A Drug-Free Community, Inc., Huntsville
- FY 1998:
 - \$96,239 to Peers are Staying Straight (PASS), Inc., Prattville
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹²
 - Mobile: The target area for this Weed and Seed site is composed of two neighborhoods, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Maysville. Both of these areas have experienced high levels of crime, drug trafficking, and unemployment.
 - Huntsville: The target area for this site is the Terry Heights Community, where there are above average levels of crime.
 - There are additional Weed and Seed sites in Birmingham, Prichard, Selma, and Montgomery
- FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotment Summary for Alabama:¹³
 - Formula Funding - \$31,114,983
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$23,828,000
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$6,461,856
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)- \$394,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$431,127
 - Discretionary Funding - \$5,257,675
 - Mental Health - \$2,128,718
 - Substance Prevention - \$979,000
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$2,149,957
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$9,415,701
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$26,956,957
 - Total Funds for Alabama: \$36,372,658
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Alabama: \$7,763,473¹⁴
- FY 2001 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Alabama: \$1,169,458¹⁵
- FY 2002 Drug Courts Grant Program amount awarded to Shelby County Commission, Columbiana: \$447,146¹⁶

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In Alabama during 2001, there were 872 adults arrested for sale of illegal drugs and 12,229 arrested for possession of illegal drugs¹⁷

Number of Adults Arrested for Sale and Possession of Illegal Drugs, Alabama, 2001

Drug type	Sales	Possession
Opium/Cocaine	356	2,899
Marijuana	220	7,999
Synthetic Drugs	149	914
Other	147	417
Total	872	12,229

- In Alabama during 2001, there were 12,932 arrests for drug abuse violations. Of those arrested, 1,027 were juvenile offenders.¹⁸

Number of Arrests, Alabama, 2001

Offense	Under 18	Total All Ages
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	25	306
Forcible Rape	29	323
Robbery	209	1,430
Aggravated Assault	230	3,614
Burglary	512	2,717
Larceny/theft	2,734	13,580
Motor Vehicle Theft	177	1,061
Arson	14	89
Driving Under the Influence	159	13,161
Liquor Laws	761	6,044
Drunkenness	103	8,139

- Preliminary data for January to September 2001 indicate that 45.1 percent of adult male arrestees in Birmingham tested positive for marijuana at arrest.¹⁹

Arrestee Positive Drug Results, Birmingham, Jan.-Sept. 2001

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	30.7%
Opiates	3.6
Marijuana	45.1
Methamphetamine	0.0
PCP	0.0
Any of above drugs	62.6
Multiple drugs	15.6

- More than forty-five percent of Birmingham adult male arrestees reported purchasing marijuana within the thirty days prior to being interviewed.²⁰

Drug Acquisition in Past Thirty Days, Birmingham, January-September 2001

Drug Type	Number of Arrestees	Percent of Arrestees	Avg. # of Days Purchased in Past 30 Days
Crack	42	18.1%	11.5 days
Powder	25	11.3	7.4
Marijuana	116	45.5	8.2
Opiates	1	0.8	2.0

- Over fifty percent of Birmingham adult male arrestees reported using marijuana in the past year. The arrestees used marijuana an average of 10.4 days within the past thirty days.²¹

Past Arrestee Drug Use, Birmingham, January-September 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marijuana	Meth-amphet.	Opiates
Past 7 days	5.7%	1.5%	14.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Past 30 days	16.7%	9.5%	45.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Past year	21.1%	11.7%	50.7%	1.4%	0.8%
Avg. # of days used in month	9.5	6.0	10.4	0.6	3.5

Drugs²²

- Cocaine
Cocaine hydrochloride and crack cocaine continue to be the largest drug threat in Alabama. A large percentage of Alabama's cocaine originates from Central and South American drug cartels and is transported from sources in California, Arizona, Texas, Georgia, and Florida.
- Heroin
Heroin found in Alabama is available in a pure form that can be smoked or snorted. The drug is becoming more affordable, which makes it more attractive to new users. The number of heroin exhibits submitted for analysis is not of epidemic proportions but when considering the treatment admission rates there is a noticeable increase in heroin abusers. The rise in admitted abusers is a reflection of the lower cost of heroin.
- Marijuana
Marijuana use in Alabama is on the rise, especially among youth ages 18-20. While cost and availability is contributed to the increased abuse, there is a belief among those buying and selling that there are little consequences if apprehended.
- Methamphetamine
Methamphetamine is readily available and widely manufactured, trafficked, and used throughout Alabama. Methamphetamine competes with marijuana as the "drug of choice" in rural areas of Alabama. Locally manufactured methamphetamine is produced in rural clandestine labs. Smaller quantities, via the "Nazi" and "Red Phosphorous" methods, are produced with ingredients obtained from convenience, hardware and agricultural stores. Chemicals such as anhydrous ammonia are stolen from fixed tanks on farms or at gas companies.
- Club Drugs
Club drug abuse and distribution among young people is on the rise in Alabama. Increases in arrests, overdoses, and seizures of these designer drugs have been reported and indicate a trend toward increased availability and trafficking of Ecstasy, LSD, and Ketamine. MDMA, LSD, GHB, and Ketamine are readily available throughout the state, more commonly found on college campuses and at raves. GHB and MDMA have emerged as the club drugs of choice. Users are young Caucasians at all economic levels, particularly college students and rave participants. Alabama's stateside sources of supply include Miami, Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia.

➤ **Other Drugs**

Pharmaceutical drugs such as Codeine, Hydrocodone, Methadone, Nembutal, Percodan, Percocet, Valium, Vicodin, and Xanax are abused. Oxycodone or OxyContin has penetrated the illicit drug market at an alarming rate and in some areas of Alabama account for more deaths than any other pharmaceutical drug. The illegal diversion, distribution, and abuse of oxycodone products, particularly OxyContin, have become a significant threat in Alabama. There has been an increase in the number of pharmacy burglaries and robberies as abusers and distributors seek to obtain this and other prescription drugs. Significant profit potential makes OxyContin attractive to both illicit distributors and users.

Juveniles

- In 2001, 38.7 percent of Alabama high school students surveyed reported trying marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²³

Percent of Alabama High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	36.2	41.2	38.7
Current Marijuana Use	16.6	20.9	18.8
Lifetime Cocaine Use	6.2	6.9	6.6
Current Cocaine Use	2.1	2.6	2.4
Lifetime Inhalant Use	14.2	12.8	13.5
Current Inhalant Use	3.8	4.1	4.0
Lifetime Heroin Use	1.1	3.7	2.5
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	7.9	6.9	7.4
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	3.5	5.9	4.8
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	1.5	2.1	1.9
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	6.0	11.2	8.8

- 43.4 percent of 11th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetime.²⁴

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, by Grade, Alabama, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime Marijuana Use	33.2%	39.5%	43.4%	40.3%
Current Marijuana Use	17.6	22.1	19.8	14.9
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	10.1	10.2	8.6	4.7
Lifetime Cocaine Use	6.4	5.8	6.8	7.3
Current Cocaine Use	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4
Lifetime Inhalant Use	14.5	14.2	12.6	11.6
Current Inhalant Use	4.4	4.5	3.8	2.5
Lifetime Heroin Use	2.8	2.2	1.6	2.6
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	4.9	8.2	7.9	9.1
Lifetime Steroid Use	4.9	4.9	5.5	3.1
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	1.9	2.2	1.5	1.5

- In Alabama during 2001, there were 38 juveniles arrested for sales of illegal drugs and 1,156 juveniles arrested for possession of illegal drugs.²⁵

Number of Juveniles Arrested for Sales and Possession of Illegal Drugs, Alabama, 2001

Drug type	Sales	Possession
Opium/Cocaine	7	137
Marijuana	13	954
Synthetic Drugs	12	53
Other	6	12
Total	38	1,156

- In 1999, 45.3% of the juvenile male detainees sampled in Birmingham tested positive for drugs at the time of arrest.²⁶

Percent of Male Juvenile Detainees Testing Positive for Drugs, Birmingham, 1999

Offense	N	Cocaine	Marijuana	Any Drug
Violent	34	2.9	44.1	44.1
Property	26	11.5	46.2	53.8
Drug	10	0.0	70.0	70.0
Sales	0	--	--	--
Possession	10	0.0	70.0	70.0
Other	48	2.1	33.3	35.4
All Others	16	0.0	25.0	25.0

Enforcement

- In Alabama during 2001, there were 15,369 full-time law enforcement employees. Of the total number of employees, 10,168 were sworn officers and 5,201 were civilian employees.²⁷
- Gulf Coast HIDTA Initiatives in Alabama:²⁸
 - Jefferson County Drug Task Force: targets major drug traffickers operating in and around Birmingham; focuses on methamphetamine distribution in the area, which has increased exponentially.
 - Mobile/Baldwin Counties Task Force: targets major drug traffickers in the Mobile/Baldwin area; augments interdiction efforts at airports, seaports, bus and rail terminals, major highways, and inland waterways.
- DEA Mobile Enforcement Teams (MET)²⁹
Developed in 1995 in response to the overwhelming problem of drug-related violent crime in towns and cities across the nation, the MET program serves as a cooperative program between DEA and its State and local law enforcement counterparts. Eight MET deployments in Alabama have led to 189 arrests. The MET deployments were in the following areas: Selma; Pritchard; Alabaster; Enterprise; Gadsden; Anniston; Bessemer; and Green/Tuscaloosa counties.

Trafficking and Seizure

- The Gulf Coast area serves as a gateway for illicit drugs through seven deep water ports, vast coastal waterways, and an extensive system of commercial and private airports. The region's central location makes it attractive for traffickers with bases of operations on either the East or West coasts of the United States. Traffickers move imported cocaine powder to locations such as Birmingham, Alabama or Jackson, Mississippi and then convert it to crack cocaine.³⁰
- Although Colombian, Mexican, and Caribbean drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are most commonly responsible for the transportation and distribution of cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine, there are local DTOs participating in area distribution as well. Outlaw motorcycle gangs also supply methamphetamine on a limited basis through their own networks within the state.³¹
- Approximately 357.9 kilograms of cocaine were seized by Federal agencies in Alabama during 2001.³²

Amount of Federal Drug Seizures, Alabama, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	357.9 kilograms
Methamphetamine	17.2 kilograms
Marijuana	332.6 kilograms

- There were 163 methamphetamine laboratories seized by the DEA and State and local authorities during 2001.³³
- In 2001, there were a total of 38,597 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in Alabama.³⁴

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Alabama, 2001

Outdoor Operations	Plots eradicated	1,407
	Cultivated plants eradicated	38,474
Indoor Operations	Grows seized	4
	Plants eradicated	123

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁵
As of June 6, 2002, there were 7 drug courts in Alabama that have been operating for over 2 years, 6 that have recently been implemented, and 10 that are being planned.
- In FY 2001, 39.3% of the total Federal defendants sentenced in Alabama had committed a drug offense. The most prevalent drug involved was crack cocaine (36.3%), followed by methamphetamine (24.3%), marijuana (18.8%), and powder cocaine (14.5%). Drugs that do not fall into these categories were involved in 6.2% of the drug offenses.³⁶

Corrections

- At the end of September 2002, there were 27,656 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State correctional authorities in Alabama, up from 26,728 at the end of September 2001.³⁷
- In September 2002, 4,223 inmates were serving sentences in the Alabama prison system for drug offenses.³⁸
- In FY 2000, there were 3,287 inmates serving sentences in Alabama for unlawful possession of a controlled substance.³⁹

Number of Drug Offenders Serving Sentences, by Primary Offenses, Alabama, FY 2000

Criminal Offense	# of Inmates
Unlawful possession of marijuana -1 st degree	879
Unlawful distribution of a controlled substance	2,346
Unlawful possession of a controlled substance	3,287
Trafficking in LSD: 4 - 14 Grams	1
Trafficking in LSD: 56 Grams or More	1
Controlled substance criminal solicitation/involving a class B felony	6
Attempt to commit a controlled substance crime/involving a class A felony	1
Attempt to commit a controlled substance crime/involving a class B felony	142
Criminal conspiracy to commit a contr substance crime involv a class A felony	12
Criminal conspiracy to commit a contr substance crime involv a class B felony	47
Trafficking cannabis: under 2000 lbs	238
Trafficking cannabis: 2.2 - 100 lbs	11
Trafficking cannabis: 100 - 500 lbs	2
Trafficking cocaine: under 200 grams	194
Trafficking cocaine: under 400 grams	6
Trafficking cocaine: over 400 grams	7
Trafficking cocaine: 28 -500 grams	29
Trafficking cocaine: 500 -1 kilogram	3
Trafficking cocaine: 1-10 kilograms	9
Trafficking opium/morphine/heroin: 4 –14 grams	1
Trafficking opium/morphine/heroin 14 –28 grams	1
Trafficking amphetamines: 28 - 500 grams	33
Trafficking amphetamines: 500 grams-1 Kilogram	3
Trafficking amphetamines: 1-10 Kilograms	1
Offenses-drugs (class “C” Felony)	1
Offenses-drugs (class “B” Felony)	1

Consequences of Use

- There were 111 drug-related deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in Birmingham during 2000, a substantial increase (41%) from 1999. Cocaine was mentioned in 41 of the deaths.⁴⁰

Number of Drug Mentions Reported by ME, Birmingham, 1996-2000

Drug Type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	26	34	33	29	33
Cocaine	45	47	47	39	41
Heroin/morphine	1	2	--	4	3
Marijuana	--	3	2	--	2
Amphetamines	--	--	1	--	1
Methamphetamine	--	--	--	--	1
Club drugs	--	--	1	--	3
Inhalants	--	--	--	1	--
Narcotic analgesics	31	19	31	40	69
Other analgesics	13	11	9	14	16
Benzodiazepines	18	42	32	26	47
Antidepressants	29	22	36	40	60
All other substances	31	39	37	33	63
Total drug deaths	75	88	92	79	111
Total drug mentions	194	219	229	226	339

Treatment

- During 2000, approximately 17,462 people were admitted to treatment in Alabama. More than 4,700 (27.2%) reported marijuana as their primary substance of abuse.⁴¹

Number of Treatment Admissions, Alabama, 2000

Drug Type	Number	Percent of total
Alcohol only	4,198	24.0%
Alcohol with secondary drug	3,003	17.2
Heroin	184	1.1
Other opiates	766	4.4
Cocaine – smoked	3,252	18.6
Cocaine – other route	506	2.9
Marijuana	4,749	27.2
Amphetamines	479	2.7
Other stimulants	12	0.1
Tranquilizers	160	0.9
Sedatives	36	0.2
Inhalants	21	0.1
PCP	4	0.0
Hallucinogens	34	0.2
Other/none specified	58	0.3

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- ³ Office of the Lt. Governor of Alabama Web site: <http://www.ltgov.state.al.us/>
- ⁴ Office of Alabama Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ago.state.al.us/>
- ⁵ Office of the Alabama Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sos.state.al.us/>
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- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Ibid.
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